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CC: Kimberlie Orr/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: BNA Article: EPA Releases Another Set of Test Results Finding No Violations in Dimock Water Wells

FYI

EPA Releases Another Set of Test Results Finding No Violations in Dimock Water Wells - .By Alan Kovski
http://news.bna.com/delIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=26045270&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1w2y3e5&split=0

BNA Snapshot

EPA Drinking Water Tests in Dimock, Pa.

Key Development: EPA reports no contaminants exceeded federal standards in latest set of sample results.

Potential Impact: The results may calm some concerns about drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

What's Next: EPA will resample four wells where previous data from state, Cabot Oil & Gas showed contaminant levels posing health concerns, but where EPA sampling data did not detect levels requiring action

The Environmental Protection Agency released a fourth set of test results May 11 for water wells in Dimock, Pa., with findings that none of the samples violated regulatory standards for drinking water.

EPA decided to test 61 wells in the northeastern Pennsylvania township after methane in groundwater was blamed on nearby natural gas drilling by Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. in 2009 and focused national attention on Dimock (67 DEN A-9, 4/9/12).

The latest samples were from 12 private drinking water wells, bringing to 59 the number of wells that have been tested without finding a violation of water quality standards.

"This set of sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take further action," EPA said in a statement released by its Region 3 office in Philadelphia. "At one well, EPA found an elevated level of methane and informed the resident, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Susquehanna County Emergency Management Agency."

Data for two other wells were not released in the latest group because EPA had not had a chance to provide the results to residents first.

Cabot Pleased Results Are Out

Cabot welcomed the latest results with a statement saying, "Cabot is pleased that EPA has now reached the same conclusion of Cabot and state and local authorities resulting from the collection of more than 10,000 pages of hard data—that the water in Dimock meets all regulatory standards."

The company said none of the detected contaminants bore any relationship to gas development in the Dimock area.

Cabot continues to be a significant producer of gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania.

EPA said it has not finished its Dimock work.

"To provide certainty to residents and ensure a thorough and accurate analysis, EPA will resample the four wells where previous Cabot and state data showed levels of contaminants that pose a health concern but where EPA's initial round of sampling data did not detect levels that would require action," the agency said.

"Once all of the sample results are complete, we will conduct a comprehensive review to determine if there are any trends or patterns in the data as it relates to home well water quality," EPA said.

For More Information

EPA test results for 59 of 61 drinking water wells in Dimock, Pa., are available at <http://bit.ly/K8sNZx>.

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